

Airstrip at Jammu airport

2094. SHRI ANIL MADHAV DAVE: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Jammu Airport's airstrip is not as per the standard size of airports for aircraft carrying more than 150 passengers and is not suited for landing of an aircraft during emergency conditions, if so, the details thereof; and

(b) whether Government proposes to develop the airstrip in the Jammu airport to avoid any catastrophe?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (DR. MAHESH SHARMA): (a) The Jammu Airport belongs to Indian Air Force (IAF), Ministry of Defence and the Airports Authority of India (AAI) maintains a Civil Enclave for civil commercial operations. The runway length is 6700 ft. which is suitable for landing and take off of B737 and A320 category of aircraft with load penalty under all conditions.

(b) Yes, Sir. The proposal is for increasing the runway length at Jammu airport by 400m.

Plight of domestic flight operators

2095. SHRI MANSUKH L. MANDAVIYA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware of the plight of several domestic flight operators who are currently facing great difficulties in operations due to their unhealthy economic condition;

(b) if so, the details of such operators;

(c) whether Government considers growth of domestic flight players essential for development of our tourism sector as well as for the overall economy of the country; and

(d) if so, the immediate action taken or proposed to be taken by Government for survival of domestic flight operators?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI ASHOK GAJAPATHI RAJU PUSAPATI): (a) and (b) The financial summary of scheduled domestic airlines as per ICAO form EF, for the year 2013-14 is given in Statement(see below).

(c) and (d) Yes Sir. The Government has taken several measures like requesting State Governments to reduce Value Added Tax (VAT) on Aviation Turbine Fuel (ATF), allowing direct import of ATF by Indian Carriers as actual users, permitting foreign airlines to invest upto 49 percent in the equity of scheduled air transport undertaking,